

TERMINAL APPARATUS FOR OPERATOR AND COMMUNICATION PATH
SETTING METHOD

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 1. Field of the Invention

2. Description of the Related Art

In general, to a transmission system are provided
25 a node for transmitting communication data and
a supervisory control apparatus for providing OAM
(Operations, Administration and Maintenance) services

to a communication network. In addition to this, in recent years, it is often the case that a terminal apparatus (which will be referred to as a terminal apparatus for an operator hereinafter) which is portable and can readily perform processing such as simple setting maintenance of the node and the like.

Meanwhile, the recent global spread of networks increases a number of devices constituting each network, and a number of supervisory control targets (for example, nodes) is thereby increasing. Therefore, the operation in the supervisory control apparatus as well as the terminal apparatus for an operator becomes considerably troublesome and advanced, and the burden of operators is getting large.

As described above, in the recent transmission system, the operation in the supervisory control apparatus or the terminal apparatus for an operator becomes troublesome and advanced, and provision of any countermeasure is demanded.

In order to solve the above-described problem, it is an object of the present invention to provide a terminal apparatus for an operator and a communication path setting method which can improve the human-machine interface and enhance the convenience in the operation.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

To achieve this aim, the present invention provides the following means.

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By doing so, a node or a communication line in

According to the present invention, there is
5 provided a terminal apparatus for an operator used when
connected to an arbitrary node in a network system
including a plurality of ring networks each of which
includes a plurality of nodes,

20 wherein the display controlling means displays
a third window on a screen of the display unit, and
displays in the third window a list of notification
information acquired by the information acquiring
means in a text format together with a plurality of
25 attributes characterizing each set of the notification
information.

As a result, a list of the notification

information acquired from the node can be grasped at glance.

According to the present invention, there is provided a terminal apparatus used when connected to
5 an arbitrary node in a network system including a plurality of ring networks each of which includes a plurality of nodes, each node including storing means for accumulating a history of notification information concerning network management,

10 the terminal apparatus for an operator comprising: a display unit; operating means for accepting click operations by a user; information acquiring means for acquiring from a connected node notification information concerning a ring network to which that
15 node belongs; information processing means for managing statuses of the network system based on the notification information acquired by this information acquiring means; and display controlling means for displaying information processed by this information processing
20 means on the display unit,

wherein the display controlling means displays an eighth window on a screen of the display unit, and displays on the eighth window a retrieval condition specification section for specifying retrieval
25 conditions for retrieving desired notification information from a history accumulated in the storing means;

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wherein the information processing means retrieves notification information satisfying the retrieval conditions specified in the eighth window from the history accumulated in the storing means; and

5 the display controlling means displays a ninth window on the screen of the display unit, and displays in the ninth window the notification information retrieved by the information processing means in a text format together with a plurality of attributes
10 characterizing the retrieved notification information.

Consequently, it is possible to display a list of notification information satisfying desired conditions from a history of the notification information accumulated in a data base on its own apparatus by the
15 node, and the procedure for displaying this list can be facilitated.

According to the present invention, there is provided a terminal apparatus for an operator used when connected to an arbitrary node in a network system
20 including a plurality of ring networks each of which includes a plurality of nodes, each node including storing means for accumulating a history of notification information including at least quality information relating to communication quality in the network
25 system,

the terminal apparatus for an operator comprising:
a display unit; operating means for accepting click

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operations by a user; information acquiring means
for acquiring from a connected node notification
information concerning a ring network to which that
node belongs; information processing means for managing
5 statuses of the network system based on the notifica-
tion information acquired by this information acquiring
means; and display controlling means for displaying
on the display unit information processed by this
information processing means,

10 wherein the display controlling means displays
a seventh button on a screen of the display unit,
displays a 12th window on the screen of the display
unit when the seventh button is clicked by the
operating means, and displays in the 12th window
15 a retrieval condition specification section for
specifying retrieval conditions for retrieving desired
notification information from a history accumulated in
the storing means;

wherein the information processing means retrieves
20 the notification information satisfying the retrieval
conditions specified in the 12th window from the
history accumulated in the storing means; and

the display controlling means displays in the
12th window notification information retrieved by the
25 information processing means in a text format together
with a plurality of attributes characterizing the
retrieved notification information.

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By doing so, a result of retrieving quality information can be grasped at a glance, which is convenient.

According to the present invention, there is
5 provided a terminal apparatus for an operator used when connected to an arbitrary node in a network system including a plurality of ring networks each of which includes a plurality of nodes,

• the terminal apparatus for an operator comprising:
10 a display unit; information acquiring means for acquiring notification information respectively transmitted from a plurality of the nodes; information processing means for managing occurrence statuses of an alarm in the network system based on the notification
15 information acquired by this information acquiring means; and display controlling means for displaying on the display unit information processed by this information processing means,

wherein the display controlling means displays
20 a ninth button on a screen of the display unit, displays on the screen of the display unit a 14th window when the ninth button is clicked by the operating means, displays in the 14th window a first section for specifying an operation target which is
25 on an urgency level of the alarm, displays a second section for selecting a cause of occurrence of the alarm with respect to the operation target specified in

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system line and a preliminary system line, the traffic bypass function causing service traffic transmitted through the working system line to make a detour to the preliminary system line,

5 the terminal apparatus for an operator comprising:
a display unit; information acquiring means for
acquiring from a connected node notification
information concerning a ring network to which that
node belongs; information processing means for managing
10 statuses of the traffic bypass function in the network
system based on the notification information acquired
by this information acquiring means; and display
controlling means for displaying information processed
by this information processing means on the display
15 unit,

wherein the display controlling means displays
a 12th button on a screen of the display unit, displays
a 17th window on the screen of the display unit when
the 12th button is clicked by the operating means, and
20 displays in the 17th window each arrow associated with
each path in a ring network as a target.

Consequently, a set state of each path in the ring network can be grasped at a glance.

According to the present invention, there is
25 provided a communication path setting method in a
terminal apparatus for an operator including a display
unit, the terminal apparatus for an operator being

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provided in a network system including a plurality of
ring networks each of which includes a plurality of
nodes connected to each other in a ring-like form
through a communication line in which a plurality of
5 communication paths are multiplexed,

the communication path setting method comprising:
a step of dividing a screen of the display unit into
a plurality of areas in association with intervals
• between the respective nodes in a ring network to which
10 a node connected with its own apparatus belongs, and
displaying in the divided areas arrows associated
with respective communication paths existing in the
intervals; a first step of specifying a low-speed side
channel of a node as a start point of a communication
15 path to be set; a second step of specifying a low-speed
side channel of a node as an end point of the
communication path to be set; a third step of
displaying an arrow associated with the communication
path to be set in a display area corresponding to
20 a node interval specified in the first and second
steps; a fourth step of repeating the first to third
steps when there is any other communication path to be
set; a fifth step of transmitting a request for setting
a communication path corresponding to the arrow
25 associated with the communication path to be set to
a node concerning formation of that communication path;
and a sixth step of causing the node having accepted

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the request for setting a communication path to form
a new communication path based on the request.

By doing so, the operation for setting a path
can be further intuitively carried out, which is
5 convenient.

According to the present invention, there is
provided a terminal apparatus for an operator used when
connected to an arbitrary node in a network system
including a plurality of nodes each of which is
10 provided with a plurality of boards,

the terminal apparatus for an operator comprising:
a display unit; operating means for accepting click
operations by a user; information acquiring means from
a connected node notification information concerning
15 the network system; and display controlling means for
displaying information processed by this information
processing means on the display unit,

wherein the display controlling means displays
a 14th button on a screen of the display unit, displays
20 a 19th window on the screen of the display unit when
the 14th button is clicked by the operating means, and
displays a section for causing an operator of its own
apparatus to select one of the nodes existing in the
network system and specify a board of the selected node
25 in the 19th window; and

wherein the information processing means deletes
the board selected in the 19th window from supervisory

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control targets of its own apparatus.

As a result, the procedure for deleting a low-speed side board from supervisory targets can be facilitated.

5 According to the present invention, there is provided a terminal apparatus for an operator used when connected to an arbitrary node in a network system including a plurality of nodes,

10 the terminal apparatus for an operator comprising:
a display unit; information acquiring means for acquiring from a connected node notification information concerning the network system; information processing means for managing the network system based on the notification information acquired by this
15 information acquiring means; and display controlling means for displaying information processed by this information processing means on the display unit,

 wherein the display controlling means displays a 16th button on a screen of the display unit, displays
20 a 21st window on the screen of the display unit when the 16th button is clicked by the operating means, and displays in the 21st window a list of operators who are permitted to login to its own apparatus in such a manner that an expiration date of a password and
25 an access level of each operator are associated with a name of each operator.

Consequently, it is possible to grasp users which

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can login at a glance.

According to the present invention, there is provided a terminal apparatus for an operator used when connected to an arbitrary node in a network system including a plurality of nodes,

the terminal apparatus for an operator comprising:
a display unit; information acquiring means for acquiring from a connected node notification information concerning the network system; information processing means for managing the network system based on the notification information acquired by this information acquiring means; and display controlling means for displaying information processed by this information processing means on the display unit,

wherein the display controlling means displays a 20th button on a screen of the display unit, displays a 25th window on the screen of the display unit when the 20th button is clicked by the operating means, and displays in the 25th window: a section for causing an operator of its own apparatus to select an arbitrary node in the network system; a list of current set statuses of an operation reference time for each node selected in this section; and a section for causing a user to select an arbitrary device from this list and individually set an operation reference time with respect to this selected device; and

wherein the information processing means sets the

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operation reference time set in the 25th window with respect to the selected node.

Consequently, the operation for setting the operation reference time with respect to each node can
5 be facilitated.

According to the present invention, there is provided a terminal apparatus for an operator used when connected to an arbitrary node in a network system including a plurality of nodes, the terminal apparatus
10 for an operator comprising: a display unit; information acquiring means from a connected node notification information concerning the network system; information processing means for managing the network system based on the notification information acquired by this
15 information acquiring means; and display controlling means for displaying information processed by this information processing means on the display unit,

wherein display controlling means displays a 21st button on a screen of the display unit, displays a 26th
20 window on the screen of the display unit when the 21st button is clicked by the operating means, displays in the 26th window color specification buttons in accordance with each state that an object displayed on the screen of the display unit can enter, displays
25 a color pallet when an arbitrary one of the color specification buttons is clicked so that an operator of its own apparatus can set a display color of a state

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corresponding to the color specification button, and displays the object displayed on the screen of the display unit in a display color set in the color pallet.

5 As a result, color coding can be carried out in accordance with, e.g., a degree of a failure in case of display on a display unit and the like, and the state of the network system can be visually grasped at a glance.

10 Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and
15 obtained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out hereinafter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

 The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification,
20 illustrate embodiments of the invention, and together with the general description given above and the detailed description of the embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

 FIG. 1 is a system drawing showing the structure
25 of a transmission system in which a terminal apparatus for an operator (Terminal) according to the present invention is installed;

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FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing the structure of a terminal apparatus for an operator (Terminal) 5 according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a view showing a main screen of a display of the Terminal 5;

FIG. 4 is a view showing how a sub menu is displayed in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a view showing how the sub menu is displayed in FIG. 3;

FIG. 6 is a view showing how the sub menu is displayed in FIG. 3;

FIG. 7 is a view showing a Node Alarm Summary Display window;

FIG. 8 is a view showing a Shelf Alarm Summary Display window;

FIG. 9 is a view showing a Shelf Alarm Summary Display window;

FIG. 10 is a view showing a Notification Display window;

FIG. 11 is a view showing an Alarm Cut Off window;

FIG. 12 is a view showing an Item Selection (Row) window;

FIG. 13 is a view showing an Item Selection (Column) window;

FIG. 14 is a Notification Display Window Control window;

FIG. 15 is a view showing an example of a CAUTION

window;

FIG. 16 is a view showing a Notification Detailed Display window;

FIG. 17 is a view showing a Notification Detailed Display window;

FIG. 18 is a view showing a Notification Detailed Display window;

FIG. 19 is a view showing an Alarm Severity Control window;

FIG. 20 is a view showing a Node/Category/Probable Cause Selection window;

FIG. 21 is a view showing a Node Selection window;

FIG. 22 is a view showing a Maintenance Control window;

FIG. 23 is a view showing a Maintenance Signal Insertion Control window;

FIG. 24 is a view showing a Selection window;

FIG. 25 is a view showing a Maintenance Signal Insertion Setting window;

FIG. 26 is a view showing an SD Threshold Control window;

FIG. 27 is a view showing an SD Threshold Setting window;

FIG. 28 is a view showing a NODE Log Control window;

FIG. 29 is a view showing an example of a CAUTION window;

FIG. 30 is a view showing a NODE Record Retrieval window;

FIG. 31 is a view showing an Alarm Record Retrieval Report window;

5 FIG. 32 is a view showing a Protection Record Retrieval Report window;

FIG. 33 is a view showing a Terminal Access Record Retrieval window;

10 FIG. 34 is a view showing a Terminal Access Record Retrieval window;

FIG. 35 is a view showing a Performance Data Record Retrieval window;

FIG. 36 is a view showing a Performance Data Record Retrieval Report window;

15 FIG. 37 is a view showing a Quality of Service Alarm Control window;

FIG. 38 is a view showing a NODE Selection window;

FIG. 39 is a view showing a Path Configuration Control window;

20 FIG. 40 is a view showing a Read Path window;

FIG. 41 is a view showing a Node Information window;

FIG. 42 is a view showing an Initialize Path Display window;

25 FIG. 43 is a view showing a Path Update window;

FIG. 44 is a view showing an Invalid Path window;

FIG. 45 is a view showing a Path Configuration

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Control window;

FIG. 46 is a view showing a Ring Map
Administrative Control window;

FIG. 47 is a view showing a Node Condition window;

5 FIG. 48 is a view showing an LS Group Type Control
window;

FIG. 49 is a view showing a NODE/LS Shelf
Selection window;

FIG. 50 is a view showing an APS Control window;

10 FIG. 51 is a view showing a Node/Channel Selection
window;

FIG. 52 is a view showing a Protection Switching
Control window;

15 FIG. 53 is a view showing a Node/Section Selection
window;

FIG. 54 is a view showing an APS Exerciser Control
window;

FIG. 55 is a view showing a NODE Timing mode
Control window;

20 FIG. 56 is a view showing a User Control window;

FIG. 57 is a view showing an Add User window;

FIG. 58 is a view showing a Change Access Level
window;

25 FIG. 59 is a view showing a Change Password
window;

FIG. 60 is a view showing a Change Valid Date
window;

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FIG. 75 is a view showing a Color Selection window; and

FIG. 76 is a view showing a Terminal Configuration window.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 An embodiment according to the present invention will now be described hereinafter in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a system configuration drawing of a transmission system in which a terminal apparatus for an operator according to an embodiment of the present invention is installed. In FIG. 1, a plurality of nodes (NODEs) 1-1 to 1-n are respectively set to a plurality of stations (Stations) ST-1 to ST-m. The nodes 1-1 to 1-n are connected to each other in the ring form through a high-speed line OL, thereby forming 10 a plurality of ring networks. That is, n ring networks exist, and each ring network provided with m nodes 1-1, 1-2, ..., 1-n is formed.

The high-speed line OL is realized as a synchronous multiplex line having, e.g., an STM-64 (Synchronous Transfer Module-level 64: corresponding to 20 10 Gbps) class transmission capacity. The high-speed line OL forming each ring network transmits optical signals. A wavelength of this optical signal differs in accordance with each ring network, and the optical 25 signals having such wavelengths are wavelength-multiplexed, thus forming a wavelength multiplex line FL.

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The nodes 1-1 to 1-n in the respective stations ST-1 to ST-m are respectively connected to an in-station supervisory control apparatus (SSE) 2 in each station. The SSE 2 is further connected to a supervisory control apparatus (U-NME) 3 which is in charge of supervisory control across the network through a LAN. Furthermore, a router 4 is connected to the LAN, and a supervisory control line ML for connecting the U-NMEs 3 of the respective stations is formed through the router 4. It is to be noted that the supervisory control line ML depicted in FIG. 1 is shown for the sake of convenience and logically realized as a DCC (Data Communication Channel) and the like provided in an SOH (Section Over Head) of an SDH frame transmitted through the wavelength multiplex line FL.

Besides, the above-described system is provided with a terminal apparatus for an operator (which will be referred to as a Terminal hereinafter) 5 according to the present invention. The Terminal 5 is used when connected to an arbitrary one of the nodes 1-1 to 1-n. In FIG. 1, it is connected to the NODE 1-n in the ST-2. The Terminal 5 is often used for, e.g., assisting start-up of each NODE, and it may be removed after accomplishing its aim. Further, the Terminal 5 may be attached according to needs, for example, various kinds of setting or acquisition of information, and the

operation for attaching the Terminal 5 is simple.
In short, the Terminal 5 is ranked as a simplified or recent supervisory control apparatus.

It is to be noted that a ring network to which a connected node belongs is a supervisory control target of the Terminal 5. In FIG. 1, the ring network constituted by the NODEs 1-n is a control target. In this regard, the Terminal 5 is distinguished from the U-NME 3 having the entire network system as a target.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing the structure of the Terminal 5 according to the present invention. The Terminal 5 includes: a memory module 31; a processor module 32; a bridge 33; an SCSI controller 34; an HD (hard disk drive) 35; a graphic controller 37; an interface controller 38; a bus controller 39; an FDD (floppy disk drive) 310; an interface (I/F) 311; a disk play interface (I/F) 312; an external interface (I/F) 313 as a connection interface with the NODEs 1 (1-1 to 1-n); a display 315; an input device 319 such as a keyboard and a mouse; a sound controller 320; a buzzer interface (I/F) 321; and a buzzer 322.

Among these members, one greatly concerning the idea of the present invention is a human-machine interface unit consisting of, e.g., the display 315, the keyboard/mouse 319 and the buzzer 322.

Each function which will be described below is newly implemented by applying, for example, patches to

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a control program mainly executed by the processor module 32. This control program is written in a special-purpose language and stored in the memory module 31, the HD 35 and the like.

5 Incidentally, in the following description, it is assumed that the entire system is provided with 32 ring networks and each ring network includes seven NODEs. That is, this corresponds to $n = 32$ and $m = 7$ in FIG. 1.

10 (Network Alarm Summary Display)

FIG. 3 is a view showing a main screen of the display 315 of the Terminal 5. This screen is a window which is displayed when the Terminal 5 is activated and is called the "Network Alarm Summary Display".
15 Besides, various windows are displayed in the display 315, but the window shown in FIG. 3 is displayed on the background of various windows.

In the window depicted in FIG. 3, a type drawing of a ring network which is a target of the Terminal 5 is graphically displayed. In the drawing, reference numerals #0 to #6 denote station icons corresponding to other NODEs 1-n belonging to the same ring network as the NODE 1-n to which the Terminal 5 is connected. Here, the system including seven NODEs is displayed.
20 A double line connecting the stations #0 to #6 is a transmission path icon indicating high-speed lines having the same wavelength. A heavy line indicates
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a working system transmission path (SRV) and a thin line represents a preliminary system transmission path (PRT).

Here, it is assumed that a failure is generated in the transmission paths on the both sides (East (W) and West (W)) of the station #6. The Terminal 5 acquires predetermined management information from the NODE 1-n connected thereto and obtains the cause of the failure. At this moment, the transmission path icon corresponding to the transmission path in which the failure is generated is displayed in a display color different from other display colors in accordance with a level of that failure. For example, it is displayed in red in case of a serious (critical) failure and displayed in yellow in case of a moderate (Major) failure. Furthermore, the transmission path having no failure and the stations #0 to #6 are displayed in, e.g., green.

Various clickable function buttons are provided on a menu bar on the upper part of the screen. There are a Terminal button, an Alarm button, a Log button, a Performance button, a Path button, a Protection button, a Security button, a System button, a Node-Other button, a Display button and a Help button from the left. When these buttons are clicked, sub menus such as shown in FIG. 4 to 6 are displayed, and various function windows are opened from these menus.

The effect in the above-described structure will now be described. In the following description, there are provided nine sections, i.e., <Node Alarm Summary>, <Notification>, <Alarm>, <Log>, <Protection>, <Security>, <System>, <Node-Other> and <Display> for the sake of convenience.

<Node Alarm Summary>

When any station icon is clicked in the screen shown in FIG. 3, a Node Alarm Summary Display window in FIG. 7 showing statuses of occurrence of a failure in the NODE is opened. The FIG. 7 window typically shows a shelf structure of the NODE selected in FIG. 3. In this drawing, the structure of the NODE #0 is shown. A rectangle indicative of each shelf is clickable. For example, when FAN is clicked, a window depicted in FIG. 8 is opened. The window shown in FIG. 8 is referred to as a Shelf Alarm Summary Display window, and a card (board) structure of the clicked shelf is displayed in this window.

Meanwhile, a display color of a COM shelf is different (oblique lines in the drawing: it is actually displayed in, e.g., red) from other display colors in FIG. 7, this indicates that a failure is generated in this shelf. Then, when the COM shelf in FIG. 7 is clicked, a Shelf Alarm Summary Display window depicted in FIG. 9 is displayed. In the FIG. 9 window, a card having a failure in the COM shelf is displayed in

a color different from those of other cards. In this example, it can be understood that there is a failure in a Q INF card.

Moreover, the FIG. 7 window displays a rectangle referred to as MAINT (Maintenance). This is not a clickable button but shows the maintenance state of the displayed node by using different colors. If the NODE is not in the maintenance process, it is displayed in, e.g., gray. However, if this NODE is in the maintenance process, it is displayed in, e.g., light blue. Then, a shelf which is in the maintenance process (e.g., replacement of a card) is distinguished from other shelves by using different colors, and the details of the operation are displayed in a lower section of the window.

The Terminal 5 grasps whether the NODE is in the maintenance process from notification from each NODE. Based on such a display mode as shown in FIG. 7, a user can be aware of the maintenance state of the NODE in detail.

In addition, a section showing a list of statuses of occurrence of Alarm in a text format is provided in any window illustrated in FIGS. 7 to 9. An operator can obtain detailed information concerning the alarm by making reference to this section. In FIGS. 7 to 9, in accordance with each section such as Card (board), Probable Cause (expected cause), Perceived Severity

(level of failures) and others, their states are displayed in a scroll window.

<Notification>

5 A Notification Display window illustrated in FIG. 10 will now be described.

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10 This Notification Display window is opened when the Terminal 5 is activated. In the default setting, this Notification Display window may be minimized when opened. Additionally, the Notification Display window is opened overlapping the Network Alarm Summary Display as a main screen when the maximization operation is carried out with respect to this window. By the later-described operation, the Notification Display window can be automatically displayed (popped up) when
15 notification information arrives from the NODE.

The Notification Display window displays in a text format a list of a history of notification information or quality information such as performance data acquired from the NODE to which the Terminal 5 is
20 connected (in this example, the NODE 1-n in the ST-2).

In the Notification Display window illustrated in FIG. 10 are provided a Detail button, Mark 1/Mark 2 buttons, a Row button and a Column button as Item Selection, a Properties button as Window Control,
25 an ACO (Alarm Cut Off) button, and a scroll window.

(Scroll Window)

The scroll window displays acquired notification

information from the top in time series, e.g., in the order of occurrence. Further, the scroll window displays attributes of notification information such as Time/Date, Event Type, Self (Object Class), Card (Object Class) and others. Besides, although not shown in FIG. 10, there are more attribute items on the right side of the Card (Object Class). They can be displayed in the window by operating the horizontal scroll button. The Time/Date section displays date and time of occurrence of an event. The Event Type section displays a type of an event. The Shelf (Object Class) section and the Card (Object Class) section display a shelf and a card having an event generated, respectively.

After arbitrary information displayed in the FIG. 10 scroll window is selected (highlighted when selected: it is indicated by oblique lines in the drawing), when a Detail button in the upper left part in the window is clicked, Notification Detailed Display windows such as shown in FIGS. 16 to 18 are displayed. These windows display detailed contents of the selected information.

A quantity of information may be large depending on an event, and some information can not be displayed in a row in the FIG. 10 scroll window. Thus, in this embodiment, windows such as shown in FIGS. 16 to 18 are provided so that the detail of information can be

5 As shown in FIG. 18, these windows can be vertically
scrolled.

When arbitrary information displayed in the
FIG. 10 scroll window is selected and the Mark 1/Mark 2
10 buttons are then clicked, a mark can be put to the
selected information. Furthermore, even though the
window is scroll in every way, display can return to
the marked information when the Mark 1/Mark 2 buttons
are again clicked.

20 (ACO Button)

In the system according to this embodiment, when a failure is detected in the NODE, an alarm unit (not

shown) provided in the station is operated in order to inform an operator of the failure. However, when Exec (execution) is clicked in the FIG. 11 window, the operation of the alarm unit can be stopped.

5 (Item Selection)

There are buttons indicated as Item Selection in the window shown in FIG. 10. That is, they are a Row button and a Column button. Of these buttons, when the Row button is clicked, an Item Selection (Row) window illustrated in FIG. 12 is displayed. The FIG. 12 window is used for performing filtering retrieval (filtering) in the scroll window shown in FIG. 10. When an OK button is clicked after arbitrarily checking check boxes for respective items, display returns to the FIG. 10 window, and only the filtered contents are displayed. When a Cancel button is clicked, setting is aborted.

When the Column button is clicked in FIG. 10, an Item Selection (Column) window shown in FIG. 13 is displayed. This window is used for changing (sorting) the display order in the scroll window depicted in FIG. 10, and there are roughly (Common Item), (Alarm), (State Change), (Protection Switch Rep), (Security Alarm) and others as setting items. There is a button for setting the priority as Location above each item. When this button is clicked, the display order can be set as shown in the drawing. The items displayed in

the FIG. 10 scroll window are sequentially displayed from the left in accordance with the set priority.

(Window Control)

When the Properties button is clicked in FIG. 10,
5 a Notification Display Window Control window depicted in FIG. 14 is displayed. This window is used for setting processing carried out upon receiving new notification information. Either radio button, i.e., On or Off is checked in accordance with each item.

10 When On of Window Auto Open is checked in the FIG. 14 window, the FIG. 10 window is automatically displayed (popped up) upon receiving new notification information. When On of Terminal is checked, the buzzer 332 (FIG. 2) is sounded in order to draw an
15 operator's attention when new notification information is received. When On of Renewal is checked, the screen is automatically scrolled in order to display latest notification information in the FIG. 10 scroll window when this new notification information is received.
20 If Off of Renewal is checked, the scroll state remains unchanged even if new notification information is received.

When Clear Display of notifications is clicked in the window illustrated in FIG. 14, display of the
25 FIG. 10 scroll window is cleared. Moreover, in advance of this, a CAUTION (warning) window shown in FIG. 15 is opened and a message indicating that the window is

cleared is displayed in order to call an operator's attention. It is to be noted that data stored in a data base of the Terminal 5 is saved even if display is cleared.

5 It is to be noted that the window shown in FIG. 10 serves as the backbone for the processing using the Terminal 5, and setting this window in such a manner that it is displayed according to the default setting comes in handy. For example, the FIG. 10 window may be
10 switched to/from the FIG. 3 main window by the one-touch operation, or a dedicated icon (not shown) may be provided in the main screen so that the FIG. 10 window can be opened by clicking this icon.

<Alarm>

15 The operation concerning Alarm will now be described. In regard to Alarm, as shown in FIG. 4, there are prepared sub menus, i.e., Alarm Severity Control, Maintenance Control, and SD Threshold Control.

(Alarm Severity Control)

20 Description will now be given as to the Alarm Severity Control window shown in FIG. 19. This window is opened when Alarm Severity Control is clicked in the sub menu (shown in FIG. 4) which is displayed when Alarm is clicked in the main screen illustrated in
25 FIG. 3.

 When a Node/Category/Probable Cause button is clicked in the FIG. 19 window, a Node/Category/Probable

Cause Selection window shown in FIG. 20 is displayed. In this window, an arbitrary NODE is selected (in the ring network to which the connected NODE belongs) and the level of importance or urgency of alarm information notified from that NODE to the Terminal 5 (its own apparatus) is set in accordance with each alarm type.

When a Node button is clicked in FIG. 20, a Node Selection window shown in FIG. 21 is opened. In this window, a NODE as an operation target is selected. In this embodiment, since seven NODEs exist in one ring network as illustrated in FIG. 3, a NODE desired by a user is selected from these seven NODEs. When any NODE is selected, display of the screen returns to FIG. 20.

Incidentally, although up to 16 NODEs can be displayed in the example shown in FIG. 21, more NODEs may be displayed if there is no problem in restrictions of the system or performance of the Terminal 5.

When each item (Category, LS channel Operation Mode) as an operation target is selected and a Read button is then clicked in the FIG. 20 window, the current set status of the selected NODE is read. Subsequently, display of the screen returns to FIG. 19, and the item selected in FIG. 20 is reflected to the display content in FIG. 19. A result of reading is displayed in the scroll window indicated as (Assignment Profile Perceived Severity) in FIG. 19 every one line.

When one line is selected, a level of alarm

(Critical Major Minor Warning Non-Alarmed: the level becomes higher toward to the left) is set in a Perceived Severity section and a Set button is then clicked in FIG. 19, the set content in FIG. 19 is set with respect to the NODE as an operation target. A Console section displays information indicating whether setting has been normally completed (OK) or not normally completed (NG).

As described above, a level of urgency of the alarm transmitted from each node can be arbitrarily set from the Terminal 5 side. As a result, the following operations are enabled. For example, when the operation test of the NODE, the installation operation, or the card replacement are performed, various kinds of alarms are generated in large quantities on the NODE side. If these alarms are notified to the U-NME 3, a communication resource is consumed in order to notify the alarms, and the system operation may be adversely affected. In particular, this fact is prominent to the AIS (Alarm Indication Signal).

Thus, if a level of urgency can be arbitrarily set in accordance with each alarm type by using the above-described function, it is possible to perform setting such as generation of required minimum alarms at the time of test. As a result, it is possible to provide facilities to the system operation. Further, by arbitrarily set a level of urgency of each alarm,

distinction by using different colors can be performed in the screen in accordance with each level of urgency.

(Maintenance Control)

5 A Maintenance Control window shown in FIG. 22 will now be described. This window is opened when the Maintenance Control is clicked from the sub menu depicted in FIG. 4. The FIG. 22 window is used for changing an operation mode of the NODE as a target. There are two operation modes, i.e., Maintenance
10 (maintenance mode) or Not Maintenance (non-maintenance mode) for the NODE. In the window illustrated in FIG. 22, a NODE as a target is selected by the procedure similar to, e.g., that in FIG. 20. Then, when either Maintenance or Not maintenance is checked
15 and thereafter an Exec button is clicked, the target NODE is informed of the set content.

(Maintenance Signal Insertion Control)

Description will now be given as to a Maintenance Signal Insertion Control window shown in FIG. 23.
20 This window is opened when Maintenance Signal Insertion Control is clicked from the sub menu illustrated in FIG. 4.

In the FIG. 23 window, an arbitrary node is specified, and allowance or inhibition of transmission
25 of an alarm signal (Maintenance Signal: a signal used for maintenance) concerning maintenance is set for this specified node. As a signal used for maintenance,

there are the above-described AIS and others.

When the Node button is clicked in the FIG. 23 window, a NODE Selection window depicted in FIG. 24 is opened. A node as a target is selected and the Read button is thereafter clicked in the FIG. 24 window. Then, the current set content of the selected node is read and displayed in the scroll window shown in FIG. 23.

An arbitrary item (channel) is clicked and selected in the scroll window. Then, a Maintenance Signal Insertion Setting window illustrated in FIG. 25 is opened, and either Allow (allowance) or Inhibit (inhibition) is selected with respect to each Operation Mode (SRV, PRT, P/T). Thereafter, when the set button is clicked, display of the screen returns to the FIG. 23 window. As described above, setting of each Channel is carried out.

When Modify is clicked upon completing setting of each item in the FIG. 23 window, the node is informed of the set content, and the set content is set. The node informed of the content transmits the maintenance signal in accordance with the set content.

(SD Threshold Control)

Description will now be given as to an SD Threshold Control window shown in FIG. 26. This window is opened when SD Threshold Control is clicked from the sub menu illustrated in FIG. 4. The FIG. 26 window is

used for setting a threshold value for generating alarm information, particularly an SD (Signal Degrade) alarm.

When Node is clicked in the FIG. 26 window, a NODE Selection window illustrated in FIG. 24 is opened.

- 5 A node as a target is selected and Read is clicked in the FIG. 24 window so that the current set content is read. This content is displayed in the scroll window shown in FIG. 26.

- 10 When an arbitrary Channel is clicked in the scroll window illustrated in FIG. 26, an SD Threshold Setting window shown in FIG. 27 is opened. Furthermore, a threshold value is selected for each Operation Mode (SRV, PRT, P/T). When Modify shown in FIG. 26 is
15 clicked upon completion of setting of each item, the node as a target is informed of each set content, and the set content is set to the node which has received information.

<Log>

- 20 The operation concerning Log will now be described. In regard to log, as shown in FIG. 4, there are prepared sub menus, i.e., NODE Log Control, NODE Record Retrieval, and Terminal Access Record Retrieval.

(NODE Log Control)

- 25 Description will now be given as to a NODE Log Control window shown in FIG. 28. This window is opened when NODE Log Control is clicked in a sub menu (shown in FIG. 4) which is opened when Log is clicked in the

FIG. 3 main menu. The FIG. 28 window concerns the operation of a log stored in a data base of a NODE to which the Terminal 5 is connected.

As shown in FIG. 28, in the data base of the
5 NODE is stored a log having items Alarm, Object
Creation/Deletion, State Change, Protection Control,
and Security Alarm. These items are all events which
are detected on the NODE side. Their histories are
stored by each NODE itself, and form a data base as
10 histories (the same content is transmitted to the SSE 2
or the U-NME 3 as notification information and also
accumulated in the data base of the SSE 2 or the U-NME
3 as a log).

A maximum log size concerning each of the above-
15 described items is set in the FIG. 28 window. In the
window shown in FIG. 28, when the Read button is
clicked, the current set content is read from the
connected NODE and shown in FIG. 28. As set items in
the FIG. 28 window, there are Max Log Size (maximum
20 size of a log in a storage resource: unit of Kbyte)
and Number of Records (maximum number of logs in the
storage resource). When setting using numeric figures
is performed for these items and the Set button is then
clicked, the set content is set to the connected NODE.

25 It is to be noted that an equal log size is
allocated to each of, e.g., Alarm to Security Alarm by
the default. On the other hand, a maximum log size

can be allocated in accordance with a frequency of occurrence of each item by performing the above-described operation. For example, since a number of times of occurrence of an event Creation/Deletion is smaller than that of any other event, a log size to be allocated is set small. Instead, a larger size can be assured for the event Alarm having a high frequency of occurrence. By doing so, it is possible to obtain an advantage that the storage resource in the NODE can be effectively exploited.

Incidentally, as the logs are accumulated, new information is rewritten on data which has overflowed the maximum log size (Wrap mode) by default, and data are deleted starting from the oldest one. Since new data is cyclically overwritten in the logs with passage of time, the accumulated logs are all deleted when changing the log size. Therefore, when the Set button shown in FIG. 28 is clicked, the alarm window is displayed. FIG. 29 shows an example of the alarm window. This window displays a message "All log records are deleted. Click the OK button if you want to delete, or click the Cancel button if you abort deletion".

(NODE Record Retrieval)

A NODE Record Retrieval window shown in FIG. 30 will now be described. This window is opened when NODE Record Retrieval is clicked from the sub menu

In the FIG. 30 window, one item is selected as Node Record Retrieval Type from Alarm, Object Creation/Deletion, State Change, Protection Control, and Security Alarm (not shown). Either All (time is not specified) or Time (time is specified) is specified in a section Condition. When Time is specified, a time is specified in a range of (Start) to (End) by Event Time (Start/End). When the Read button is clicked after each item is selected in the FIG. 30 window, a result of retrieval is displayed in a (Alarm) Record Retrieval Report window shown in FIG. 31.

In the FIG. 31 window, a mark can be also put to

arbitrary information displayed in the scroll window by using the Mark 1/Mark 2 buttons as similar to FIG. 10. Moreover, when the Mark 1/Mark 2 buttons are clicked anywhere in the scroll window, display can return to the marked information. The clear (Clr) button is also similar to that shown in FIG. 10. FIG. 32 shows a display example of a retrieval result concerning Protection Control.

(Terminal Access Record Retrieval)

A Terminal Access Record Retrieval window shown in FIG. 33 will now be described. This window is opened when Terminal Access Record Retrieval is clicked from the sub menu shown in FIG. 4. This window is used for setting conditions for retrieving data concerning logs stored in the NODE, particularly an access log from the Terminal 5.

In the FIG. 33 window, when the retrieval conditions are specified and the Read button is clicked as similar to, e.g., FIG. 30, a result of retrieval is displayed in a Terminal Access Record Retrieval Report window shown in FIG. 34. A name of a login user is displayed in a section Login Name in the scroll window, and the operation content of that login user is displayed in a section Function of the same.

<Performance>

The operation concerning Performance will now be described. In regard to Performance, as shown in

FIG. 4, there are prepared sub menus, i.e., Performance Data Record Retrieval and Quality of Service Alarm Control.

(Performance Data Record Retrieval)

5 A Performance Data Record Retrieval window illustrated in FIG. 35 will now be described. This window is opened when Performance Data Record Retrieval is clicked in the sub menu (shown in FIG. 4) which is opened when Performance is clicked in the FIG. 3 main menu. This window is used for retrieving a quality log from the data base of the connected NODE.

10 In the FIG. 35 window, items Channel and Operation Mode of a connected NODE are specified. In the Channel item, a channel of a high-speed side line (HS W (West), HS E (East)) accommodated in the NODE and a channel of a low-speed side line (LS1 to LS32) accommodated in the same are respectively specified. In an Operation Mode item, a type of a transmission path, i.e., SRV (service channel: working system), PRT (protection channel: preliminary system), or P/T (part time system) is specified. These items are selected in a drop-down list.

20 When the Read is clicked in the FIG. 35 window, the current state of the selected target is retrieved from the data base of the NODE, and a list of that result is displayed in a Performance Data Record Retrieval Report (Graph) window shown in FIG. 36.

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Likewise, functions of the Mark 1/Mark 2 buttons and the clear (Clr) button can be used in this window.

(Quality of Service Alarm Control)

5 A Quality of Service Alarm Control window depicted in FIG. 37 will now be described. This window is opened when Quality of Service Alarm Control is clicked from the sub menu shown in FIG. 4. In the system according to this embodiment, when quality information measured in each NODE demonstrates excessive quality
10 degradation, the supervisory control apparatus 3 is informed of this degradation as an alarm. The FIG. 37 window is used for setting conditions under which the alarm is transmitted. The selected NODE is notified of the conditions set in the FIG. 37 window, and the NODE
15 having received this notification operates under the conditions.

As the quality information, there are TCCV (Total Count of Code Violation), BBE (Background Block Error), ES (Errored Second), SES (Severely Errored Second), UAS
20 (Unavailable Seconds), OFS (Out of Frame Second) and others.

When a NODE/Channel/Selection button is clicked in FIG. 37, a NODE/Channel/Section Selection window depicted in FIG. 38 is displayed. In the FIG. 38
25 window, which section in which channel in which node in which ring network that the quality information is determined as a target is set. That is, in the FIG. 38

When the Read button is clicked in the FIG. 38 window, the current set content is read from the target NODE, and this is displayed in the window depicted in FIG. 37. An operator of the Terminal 5 changes or modifies conditions under which the alarm is transmitted for each set of the quality information based on the content displayed in the FIG. 37 window.

In the window shown in FIG. 37, On or Off is selected in a section Notify, and notification or non-notification of the alarm is set. In a Perceived Severity section, any one of Critical, Major, Minor and Warning is selected and rating of the notified alarm is set. In a Threshold section, a threshold value concerning notification/non-notification of the alarm is set by inputting a numeric figure.

When the Set button is clicked after the above-described setting is carried out for each set of quality information, the target NODE is informed of the set content. The NODE having received notification notifies the supervisory control apparatus 3 of the alarm in accordance with the informed set content. With the above-mentioned functions, management of the communication quality can be facilitated.

<Path>

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5) is connected (Local Node) is selected as a target for obtaining the set status of the path. In addition, when the Read button is clicked after either or both of SRV and P/T Operation Modes are specified, the current path set content is read from the selected target. This read content is reflected to display (scroll window) in FIG. 39.

#0 to #3 displayed in the scroll window shown in FIG. 39 correspond to respective NODEs displayed in the FIG. 3 main screen. FIG. 39 shows an example in which one ring network is provided with four nodes. Reference numeral #1 in a square in FIG. 39 denotes a NODE to which its own apparatus (Terminal 5) is currently connected. A high-speed side West line is displayed on the left side and an East line is displayed on the right side of the scroll window. Time slots which are time-division-multiplexed to the high-speed side line are displayed by numbers on the left side of the scroll window, and one time slot corresponds to one path.

For example, one double arrow is displayed at a position of each of the time slots 2 and 3 between the NODE #3 and the NODE #0. Each arrow corresponds to one path, and it is indicated that the path is dropped to the LS side in the node shown by an end of the arrow.

A mark indicative of a drop type of the path is

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displayed at an end of each arrow. For example, in the time slot 2, a triangle mark (head) is given to the NODE #0; a square mark (Tail), to the NODE #3; and a white circle mark (Drop & Continue), to the NODE #0 side of the NODE #1. This indicates that the path added from the LS side in the NODE #0 is dropped to the LS side in the NODE #3 and also dropped to the LS side in the midway NODE #1. Such a path is referred to as a dual homing (Dual Homing) path. Besides, a Drop & Continue with Add path is indicated by a double circle mark.

A numeric figure given at an end portion of each arrow in FIG. 39 indicates a channel number on the low-speed side to which the path is dropped. A destination to which the path is dropped can be displayed in detail as shown in, e.g., FIG. 45. In FIG. 45, as to a notation "17B1", the first number 17 indicates a channel number; the subsequent B, a type of a board (A indicates an STM-4 board, and B indicates an STM-16 board); and the subsequent 1, a time slot number of LS (low-speed side channel).

In FIG. 39, an arrow is shown at a position of each of the time slots 9 to 12 in an interval SRV between the NODE #03 and the NODE #02. These arrows indicates that they are one concatenation (Concatenation) path as a whole. That is, four time slots form one path. The notation "17B1a" or "65B1a"

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indicates the drop state of the path. For example, if there is the notation "17B1a", the first number 17 indicates a channel number on the low-speed side to which the path is dropped. The subsequent "B" indicates a board type to which the path is dropped. "B" means an STM-16 board, and "A" means an STM-4 board. The subsequent "1" indicates a time slot number in the low-speed side channel. The last "a" indicates a type of concatenation and means that a concatenation signal represented by this arrow is an AU-4-4c signal corresponding to the STM-4.

Description will now be given as to how to set a path by using the window illustrated in FIG. 39.

A start point and an end point of a path to be set are specified. For example, when the circumference of a part surrounded by a dotted line (time slot 12, NODE #0: this is not actually displayed) in FIG. 39 is clicked, a Node Information window shown in FIG. 41 is opened. FIG. 41 displays the current path status concerning a NODE corresponding to the clicked part.

In the FIG. 41 window, a path type (Head, Tail and others) is specified in the pull-down menu in a Path Type section, and a type of concatenation of a path to be set is specified in a Concatenation Type section.

In FIG. 41, AU-4 corresponding to STM-1, AU-4-4c corresponding to STM-4, and AU-4-16c corresponding to STM-16 can be selected. In this section, AU-4-64c

corresponding to STM-64 may be provided. In an LS Channel section, a channel which can be a start point or an end point of the path is selected in the pull-down menu. After selecting each item, a Create button or a Modify button is clicked.

Then, when Update Path (not shown) is clicked in the sub menu of Function in FIG. 39, an Update Path Control window shown in FIG. 43 is displayed. The FIG. 43 window is used for directing updating of data including the path setting. When each item is checked and the Exec button is clicked in the FIG. 43 window, the set content is enabled, and the new path is set in the network.

Incidentally, when APS functions during the operation for setting a path, erroneous connection of traffic may occur. In order to avoid erroneous connection, the APS function in the ring network is locked before the path setting operation in this system according to this embodiment. When the APS is locked, redundancy switching is not executed even if a failure is generated. In order to unlock the APS, Release is checked in a Release Lockout section in the FIG. 43 window.

It is to be noted that an Initialize Path Display window shown in FIG. 42 is an alarm window which is displayed when clearing the operation for editing a path. When OK is clicked in this window, the edit

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content is cleared.

An Invalid Path window shown in FIG. 44 will now be described. This window is displayed when Invalid (not shown) is clicked in the sub menu of Function shown in FIG. 39. The FIG. 44 window is used for confirming whether there is an invalid path exists in paths shown in FIG. 39. "Extra" displayed in the scroll window in the FIG. 44 window indicates an excessive path which does not exist by nature.

Besides, a missing path is indicated as "Shortage".

(Ring Map Administrative Control)

A Ring Map Administrative Control window shown in FIG. 46 will now be described. This window is opened when a Ring Map Administrative Control button is clicked from the sub menu shown in FIG. 4. The FIG. 46 window is used for setting locking (Locked)/unlocking (Unlocked) of the APS function in accordance with each node. For example, if the APS function which is locked (Lock) when setting a path is not released for some reason, this window is used for manually releasing the APS function.

When a Node Condition button is clicked in FIG. 46, a Node Condition window illustrated in FIG. 47 is opened. Specification of one NODE or specification of all NODEs in the ring network is selected in the FIG. 47 window. Then, when the Read button is clicked, the current status of a target NODE is acquired, and

the acquired content is shown in FIG. 46. From this state, either Locked (locking) or Unlocked (releasing) is selected in FIG. 46. Subsequently, when the Set button is clicked, a message is transmitted to a target
5 NODE, and the status of the APS is set to Locked or Unlocked.

(Ls Group Type Control)

An Ls Group Type Control window shown in FIG. 48 will now be described. The FIG. 48 window is used for
10 setting a mode of redundancy switching concerning the low-speed (LS) system. In FIG. 48, when Node/LS Shelf is clicked, a Node/Shelf Selection window illustrated in FIG. 49 is opened. A NODE and a low-speed shelf as
15 targets are selected in the FIG. 49 window, and the Read button is clicked. Then, the set content of the current LS group type is read and displayed in an LS No. and Group Type section shown in FIG. 48.

When a desired line is selected in this section, types of switching modes are displayed in the pull-down
20 menu in the Group Type section. As the types of the switching modes, there are "0:1" corresponding to in-device redundancy switching, "1+1cP/T" including a part time system and the like. Besides, there are "1+1c", "1:1", "1:1P/T" and others. Here, an arbitrary
25 switching mode is selected, and either Create (creating a group type) or Delete (deleting a group type) is selected in an Edit Type section. Thereafter, the Set

button is clicked. Then, the selected NODE is informed of the set content.

Incidentally, although this is also applied to other windows, a result of communication with the NODE is displayed as, e.g., OK/NG in a Console section. Further, current access contents are sequentially displayed in a footer portion (rectangle) at a lower part in the window.

(APS Control)

An APS Control window shown in FIG. 50 will now be described. The FIG. 50 window is displayed when APS Control is clicked in the sub menu illustrated in FIG. 4, and used for setting various kinds of parameters of the APS function. When a Node/Channel button is clicked in the FIG. 50 window, the FIG. 51 window is opened. When a NODE and a Channel as operation targets are selected and the Read button is clicked in the FIG. 51 window, the current set content is read from the target NODE, and the content is shown in FIG. 50.

In FIG. 50, there are items Wait-to-Restore Time, Wait-to-Response Time, Request Guard Time. These items are temporal parameters concerning the APS. Each current set value is displayed in a section []. When an arbitrary numeric figure is set in this section and the Set button is then clicked, the selected NODE is informed of the set content and this setting is

determined.

<Protection>

The operation concerning Protection will now be described. In regard to Protection, as shown in
5 FIG. 5, there are prepared sub menus Protection
Switching Control, APS Exerciser Control, and Timing
mode Control.

(Protection Switching Control)

Description will now be given as to a Protection
10 Switching Control window illustrated in FIG. 52. This
window is opened when Protection Switching Control is
clicked from the sub menu (shown in FIG. 4) which is
opened when Protection is clicked in the main screen in
FIG. 3. This window is used for manually performing
15 switching using the APS.

Here, likewise, a Node/Section Selection is first
clicked, and a Node Section Selection window shown in
FIG. 53 is displayed. In the FIG. 53 window, a target
NODE is selected, and HS, Equipment and LS are selected
20 in Section. Equipment is an item concerning in-device
switching. In particular, when LS is selected, LS
Channel (low-speed side channel) is also specified.
When the Read is clicked after each item is specified,
the current set content is read and shown in FIG. 52.
25 A display form in FIG. 52 also varies in accordance
with the selection content illustrated in FIG. 53.

The FIG. 52 scroll window displays the current

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statuses of parameters such as Protection Status, Request Source, Switch Status, Auto Switch Condition, Switch Type and the like. For example, when Equipment is specified in the Section section, the two scroll windows are opened, and setting can be performed in the respective windows. This corresponds to the fact that there is switching of two directions, i.e., East and West in connection with Equipment and HS switching. Therefore, when LS is specified, only one scroll window is opened.

Incidentally, when HS is specified in Section, sections in which LS1-LS64 and LS65-LS128 are displayed as shown in FIG. 52 display EAST and WEST (display order is no object).

In Control Section, a section to be set is specified and a scroll window is selected. Furthermore, a type of switching (Forced Switch, Manual Switch and the like) is selected in Switch Type Control. When either Invoke (executing switching) or Release (returning from the switched state) is specified in an Action section and the Exec button is then clicked, the selected node is informed of the set content, and the new switching state is set to this node. As described above, it is possible to control the switching state of an arbitrary node from the Terminal 5 side.

(APS Exerciser Control)

An APS Exerciser Control window shown in FIG. 54 will now be described. This window is opened when APS Exerciser Control is clicked from the sub menu shown in FIG. 4, and used for performing the test concerning transmission/reception of signals relating to the APS function. In the FIG. 54 window, Node/Channel is clicked, and a NODE and a channel as operation targets are selected. Then, when either Span (Line) or Ring is selected in an Exercise Type section and the Exec button is thereafter clicked, the operation test of the APS concerning the selected NODE is executed. It is to be noted that actual switching is not executed here but only the test confirming whether transmission/reception of K bytes can be normally carried out is performed.

(Timing mode Control)

A NODE Timing mode Control window shown in FIG. 55 will now be described. This window is opened when Timing mode Control is clicked in the sub menu shown in FIG. 4, and used for manually setting how to take the operation clock (Timing Mode) with respect to each node.

In the FIG. 55 window, a Node button is clicked, and a NODE as a target is selected. Then, a list of the current clock supply statuses is displayed as shown in FIG. 55. In FIG. 55, when the Set button is clicked after respective items System Timing Mode, Select

Clock, Select Card, Synchronization Mode, Transmission S1 (WEST and EAST) are specified, a message is transmitted to the target NODE, and the synchronization status of the clock is set.

5 <Security>

The operation concerning Security will now be described. In regard to Security, as shown in FIG. 5, there are prepared sub menus User Control and Machine-Machine Control.

10 (User Control)

A User Control window illustrated in FIG. 56 will now be described. This window is opened when a User Control button is clicked from the sub menu which is opened by clicking Security in the FIG. 3 main screen.

15 The FIG. 56 window displays a list of user names (operator names) which are currently registered to the Terminal 5. Each user has his/her own password, and this password is utilized when, e.g., logging in to the Terminal 5. In the above-described window,
20 an expiration date of the password is displayed in a "Password Valid Date" section. Additionally, as Access Level, a rank indicating "how far the operation is possible" to the various functions in the system is set to each user, and there is a rank ranging from Level-A
25 to Level-C.

When an Add User button is clicked in FIG. 56, an Add User window shown in FIG. 57 is displayed.

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This window is used for newly registering a user who
can access the Terminal 5. The FIG. 57 window includes
a user name input section, a password input section,
a section for reconfirming a password, and a section
5 for setting an access level.

On the contrary, when an arbitrary user is clicked
and selected in the FIG. 56 window and a Delete User
button is then clicked, registration of the selected
user is deleted. At this moment, the CAUTION window
10 for confirming execution/cancel of deletion may be
displayed.

When an arbitrary user is clicked and selected
and a Change Access Level button is then clicked in
the FIG. 56 window, a Change Access Level window
15 illustrated in FIG. 58 is displayed. The FIG. 58
window is used for changing an access level of the
selected user. Any radio button is checked, and the
access level is set.

When a Change Password button is clicked after
20 an arbitrary user is clicked and selected in the
FIG. 56 window, a Change password window depicted in
FIG. 59 is opened. The FIG. 59 window is used for
changing a password of the selected user. This window
includes a section in which a name of the selected user
25 is displayed, a section in which an old password of the
user, namely, a current password is inputted, a section
in which a newly set password is inputted, and

a section for reconfirming this password.

When a Password Validity button is clicked after an arbitrary user is clicked and selected in the FIG. 56 window, a Password Validity Configuration window shown in FIG. 60 is displayed. This window is used for setting an expiration date of a password of the selected user, and an expiration date can be specified on the monthly basis in the pull-down menu form.

10 (Machine-Machine Control)

Description will now be given as to a Machine-Machine Control window depicted in FIG. 61. The FIG. 61 window is opened when a Machine-Machine Control button is clicked from the sub menu shown in FIG. 4.

15 This window is used for managing an access level from the supervisory control apparatus in the system to a device to be monitored. That is, in the windows shown in FIGS. 56 to 60, the access authority of a human to a device is managed. On the contrary, in 20 the window depicted in FIG. 61, the access authority of a device to another device is managed. It is to be noted that the supervisory apparatus includes the U-NME 3 and the SSE 2 as wells the Terminal 5.

25 In the FIG. 61 window, a Node button is clicked and a NODE as an operation target is selected. Then, the current set content of the selected NODE is displayed in sections Manager Name and Access Level.

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function. The auto logout function automatically performs logoff when no operation is continuously carried out for a predetermine time in the Terminal 5 to which a user has accessed. This kind of function is well known as being effective for assuring the security. In the FIG. 64 window, the time from an initial operation to logoff (namely, the auto logout time) is set.

<System>

The operation concerning System will now be described. In regard to System, as shown in FIG. 6, there are prepared sub menus System Time Setting, Software Information, and Ring APS Control.

(System Time Setting)

A System Time Setting window shown in FIG. 66 will now be described. This window is opened when a System Time Setting button is clicked from the sub menu (shown in FIG. 5) which is opened by clicking System in the FIG. 3 main menu. This window is used for specifying an apparatus in the network system in order to set its operation reference time.

When the Node button is clicked in the FIG. 66 window, a window for specifying a NODE as a target whose time is to be set is opened, and a NODE as a setting target is specified in this window. The current set state is read from the selected NODE, and the content is reflected to FIG. 66. When the

5 All the apparatuses existing in the network system
can be synchronously operated at the same time by
setting the operation time relative to an arbitrary
apparatus as described above. As a result, when the
network system is set across areas having a difference
10 in time, it is possible to set the operation time of
each apparatus in conformity to Universal Time
Coordinated (UTC). Of course, the operation time which
varies depending on each apparatus can be also set
according to needs.

A Ring APS Control window shown in FIG. 67 will now be described. The FIG. 67 window is displayed when Ring APS Control is clicked from the sub menu shown in FIG. 5. This window is used for setting various parameters concerning a high-speed side redundancy switching function referred to as Ring Aps.

As parameters concerning the Ring APS function, there are a number of NODEs constituting the ring network, a unique node ID of each NODE, a number of time slots of the high-speed side service traffic, a number of time slots of the high-speed side extra traffic, the connection relationship of the NODEs

(Ring Topology Map) and others.

When the Read button is clicked in the FIG. 67 window, a current value of each parameter concerning the ring network to which a connected NODE belongs is acquired in the Terminal 5. The acquired parameter value is displayed in the FIG. 67 window. When a numeric figure is inputted in accordance with each parameter item and the Set button is then clicked, the inputted value becomes effective.

When a Ring Topology Map button is clicked in FIG. 67, a Ring Topology Map Configuration window shown in FIG. 68 is opened. The FIG. 68 window is used for arbitrarily setting the connection relationship of the respective NODEs in the ring network. Reference characters A to P given to the Nodes in the FIG. 68 window indicate the NODEs adjacent to each other in the ring in a sequential order. For example, if #0 is A in the network conformation shown in FIG. 3, #1 is B, #2 is C, ..., and #6 is F. For each NODE, a unique ID in the ring network and an ID of each NODE are separately set.

(Software Information)

A Software Information window shown in FIG. 69 will now be described. The FIG. 69 window is displayed when a Software Information button is clicked in the sub menu shown in FIG. 5. This window is used for specifying a NODE and displaying information concerning

software installed in that NODE. When the Node button is clicked and a NODE is selected in this window, version information of software and its date of installation are read from the specified NODE.

5 This read content is displayed in the FIG. 69 window together with a name of that NODE.

<Node-Other>

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The operation concerning Node-Other will now be described. In regard to Node-Other, as shown in
10 FIG. 6, there are prepared sub menus LS Card Control and Notification Reporting Control.

(LS Card Control)

An LS Card Control window shown in FIG. 70 will now be described. This window is displayed when an LS
15 Card Control button is clicked in the sub menu (shown in FIG. 6) which is opened by clicking Node-Other in the FIG. 3 main screen. This window is used to select a NODE and set a card (board) mounted on the selected NODE as a supervisory target in the U-NME 3 or delete
20 the card from the supervisory target.

That is, in the respective NODES 1-1 to 1-n, a low-speed side board (LS card) can be freely inserted/removed. The U-NME 3 must fully grasp changes in the mounting state of a card due to replacement or
25 expansion of a card in order to operate the system. The FIG. 70 window is used to set deletion of a board which is removed from a NODE and no longer mounted from

supervisory targets of the U-NME 3.

When the Node button is clicked in FIG. 70,
a window for selecting a NODE which should be an
operation target is opened. An arbitrary NODE is
5 selected in this window, and a low-speed side shelf is
selected by a Select Shelf button. When a Select Card
button is clicked, a Card Selection window depicted in
FIG. 71 is opened, and a low-speed card in the shelf is
selected in this window. In the FIG. 71 window, Left
10 or Right can be specified in an LS Card Type section,
and a mounting position in the shelf can be also
selected.

As described above, an arbitrary board is
selected, and either LS Card Deletion (deletion of
15 a target board) or LS Card Type Setting (change of
a board type) is selected in an Action section.
Subsequently, when the Exec button is clicked,
the target NODE is informed of the set content as
a message, and this content is set.

20 By doing so, the following effects can be
obtained. It is assumed that one STM-4 board having
the throughput capacity equivalent to that of four
STM-1 boards is inserted in place of these boards.
Then, three slots in which the STM-1 boards have been
25 inserted become vacant, and an alarm indicating that
boards are not mounted to the slots is detected. As to
the slot in which the STM-4 board is inserted, an alarm

indicating that a wrong board is mounted is detected. If this state is left untouched, the state that the U-NME 3 is informed of these alarms endlessly continues, which becomes an obstacle to the system operation.

As a countermeasure, a message is transmitted to the NODE as described above, a board and a slot from which a board is removed are checked off, and a type of the board is changed, thereby avoiding the above-mentioned problem.

(Notification Reporting Control)

Description will now be given as to a Notification Reporting Control window depicted in FIG. 72. This window is opened when a Notification Reporting Control button is clicked from the sub menu shown in FIG. 6, and used for setting from the Terminal 5 side a destination of the notification information for an arbitrary NODE. That is, the FIG. 72 window is used for manually rewriting EFD (Event Forwarding Discriminator) of each node from the Terminal 5 side.

When a Node/Notification button in FIG. 72 is clicked, a Node/Notification Selection window shown in FIG. 73 is opened. In the FIG. 73 window, a NODE as a target is selected, and a type of notification information (for example, Alarm) as an EFD rewriting target is selected in the FIG. 73 window.

In the window illustrated in FIG. 73, when the

Read button is clicked, the current set content is read, and the read value is displayed as shown in FIG. 72. A Destinations section in FIG. 72 displays a name of the U-NME 3 which is a current destination of notification information of the selected node. An arbitrary U-NME 3 is selected in this section, either Allow (allowance) or Inhibit (inhibition) is specified in a Notification Reporting section below the former section.

In this manner, whether notification information is sent is individually set for each U-NME 3. When the Set button is clicked, a message for informing the set content is transmitted to the NODE as an operation target. The NODE having received this message operates in accordance with the set content.

By doing so, the following effects can be obtained. Assuming that any U-NME 3 fails to operate properly, informing this faulty U-NME 3 of notification information causes disadvantages on the system operation. That is because the transmitted notification information is lost in the faulty U-NME 3. Thus, rewriting the EFD in the above-described manner can avoid disadvantages such as loss of important data. Further, the traffic at the time of transmitting notification information to the U-NME 3 takes a relatively large marginal zone. Thus, if the above-described function is used to set informing only the

necessary minimum U-NMEs 3 of notification information, notification information can be transmitted by the necessary minimum traffic, thereby reducing the load of the network.

5 <Display>

The operation concerning Display will now be described. In regard to Display, as shown in FIG. 6, there are prepared sub menus Display Control and Terminal Configuration.

10 (Display Control)

A Display Control window shown in FIG. 74 will now be described. This window is opened when Display Control is clicked in the sub menu (shown in FIG. 6) which is opened by clicking Display in the FIG. 3 main screen. In this window, respective clickable Color buttons are provided to items Critical, Major, Minor, Warning, Clear, Other Notifications and Maintenance indicating alarm levels. A current display color of each alarm level is shown in a square [□] on the left side and a newly set display color is shown in a square □ on the right side with the Color button sandwiched between these squares. Although not shown in the drawing, each square is colored.

When the Color button is clicked in the FIG. 74 window, a color pallet displayed in a Color Selection window in FIG. 75 is displayed. An arbitrary color is selected for each alarm level by using this pallet.

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It is to be noted that the present invention is

not restricted to the above-described embodiment.

For example, the above-embodiment has described the functions in the Terminal 5, the SSE 2 can be provided with the similar functions within the range of its share.

Further, although one U-NME 3 is set in each station in the foregoing embodiment, one U-NME 3 may perform supervisory control over the entire network depending on the system, or the U-NME 3 may be set in an arbitrary station.

Furthermore, a name of each window and function button mentioned above, arrangement of a displayed objected in each window, a position of each function buttons and others are not restricted to those in the above-described embodiment.

Besides, various modifications are possible without departing from the scope of the present invention.

As described above, according to the present invention, it is possible to provide a terminal apparatus for an operator and a communication path setting method which can improve the human-machine interface and facilitate the operation.

Thus, the present invention is effective for technical fields relating to an optical undersea cable system, and particularly for technical fields concerning a network that conform to SDH/SONET.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments shown and described herein. Accordingly, various
5 modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

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